

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent. Claims 6 and 11 are hereby amended. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,563,800 to Salo et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...transmitting means for transmitting user registration data necessary to secure one's exclusive storage area in a server connected in a network...; receiving means for receiving address data designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area oriented to said user registration data from said server over said network...” (emphasis added)

Independent claims 6, 11 and 16 are corresponding method, storage medium and system claims, respectively, and are similar in scope.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,563,800 to Salo et al. (hereinafter, merely "Salo"), as applied by the Examiner, do not disclose the above-cited features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Salo does not disclose transmitting user registration data necessary to secure one's exclusive storage area in a server connected in a network and receiving means for receiving address data designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area oriented to said user registration data, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 6, 11 and 16 are similar in scope and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,563,800 to Salo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,826 to Hayes, Jr. et al.

Claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 depend on claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, respectively, and are therefore believed to be distinguishable over Salo for at least the reasons provided in relation to the corresponding independent claim. Applicants have found nothing in the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,826 to Hayes, Jr. et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hayes") that would provide the disclosure missing to Salo to render claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 obvious.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same

reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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